IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An emulsifier-free antifoam ~~which is obtainable~~ obtained by mixing

a) from 80 to 99% by weight of at least one finely divided, virtually water-insoluble, inert solid with

b) from 1 to 20% by weight of at least one hydrophobic, organic compound which has an antifoam action and is solid at room temperature

in the absence of a solvent in a shear gradient such that the particle size of the compounds (b) having an antifoam action is reduced to a mean particle size of from 0.5 to 15 μm.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The emulsifier-free antifoam as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixing of the components (a) and (b) is effected in an extruder or kneader.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The emulsifier-free antifoam as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixing of the components (a) and (b) is carried out in a fluidized bed.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The emulsifier-free antifoam as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein kaolin, sheet silicates, chalk, calcium sulfate, barium sulfate, talc, titanium dioxide, alumina, silica, satin white, cellulose, groundwood, urea/formaldehyde pigments, melamine/formaldehyde pigments, starch and/or crosslinked starch are used as the finely divided, inert solids (a).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The emulsifier-free antifoam as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein a $C_{12}$- to $C_{26}$-alcohol, distillation ~~residues which are obtainable~~ residue obtained in the preparation of alcohols of >10 carbon atoms by oxo synthesis or by the Ziegler process, alkoxylated alcohols of 12 to 26 carbon atoms, 3-thiaalkan-1-ols, 3-thiaoxaalkan-1-ols, 3-thiadioxaalkan-1-ols and esters of said 3-thiaalkanols, 3-thiaoxaalkanols and thiadioxadialkanols are used as the hydrophobic compounds (b) having an antifoam action.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The emulsifier-free antifoam as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein

(i) a $C_{12}$- to $C_{26}$-alcohol, distillation ~~residues which are obtainable~~ residue obtained in the preparation of alcohols of >10 carbon atoms by oxo synthesis or by the Ziegler process, alkoxylated alcohols of 12 to 26 carbon atoms, 3-thiaalkan-1-ols, 3-thiaoxaalkanols and thiadioxaalkanols in combination with

(ii) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of the glyceryl esters of fatty acids having at least 10 carbon atoms in the molecule, $C_{12}$- to $C_{30}$-alcohols, alkoxylated alcohols, esters of sugar alcohols having at least 4 OH groups or at least 2 OH groups and at least one intramolecular ether bond and a fatty acid having at least 20 carbon atoms in the molecule, fatty acid esters of $C_{12}$- to $C_{22}$-carboxylic acids with monohydric to trihydric alcohols, ketones having melting points above 45°C, the polyglyceryl esters which are obtainable by at least 20% esterification of polyglycerols which have at least 2 glycerol units with at least one $C_{12}$- to $C_{36}$-fatty acid, reaction products of mono- and diglycerides with dicarboxylic acids, reaction products of glycerol with dicarboxylic acids, which reaction products have been esterified with at least one $C_{12}$- to $C_{36}$-fatty acid, polyethylene waxes,

natural waxes, hydrocarbons having boiling points above 200°C and mixtures of said compounds

are used as component (b).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The emulsifier-free antifoam as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein

(a) a crosslinked starch and/or cellulose fibers are used as the finely divided, inert solids and

(b) at least one $C_{12}$- to $C_{30}$-alcohol and a polyglyceryl ester of a carboxylic acid of 18 to 36 carbon atoms are used as the hydrophobic organic compound having an antifoam action.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The emulsifier-free antifoam as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein

(a) a crosslinked starch and/or cellulose fibers are used as the finely divided, inert solids and

(b) at least one $C_{12}$- to $C_{30}$-alcohol, a polyglyceryl ester of a carboxylic acid of 18 to 36 carbon atoms and further organic esters and/or amides having an antifoam action are used as the hydrophobic organic compound having an antifoam action.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The emulsifier-free antifoam as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the component (a) is contained in an amount of from 88 to 95% by weight and the component (b) in an amount of from 5 to 12% by weight in the mixture, and wherein the mean particle size of the component (b) is from 0.5 to 5 μm.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of emulsifier-free oil-in-water dispersions of mixtures of (a) at least one finely divided, virtually water-insoluble, inert solid and (b) at least one hydrophobic, organic compound which has an antifoam action and is solid at room temperature ~~by~~ comprising mixing the components (a) and (b) at up to 100°C and emulsifying/dispersing the mixture in water, wherein the mixture contains the compounds of component (a) in an amount of from 80 to 99% by weight and the compounds of component (b) in an amount of from 1 to 20% by weight, and wherein the components (a) and (b) are mixed in the absence of emulsifiers in an extruder or kneader in a manner such that the mean particle size of the component (b) in the mixture is brought to 0.5 to 15 μm.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the components (a) and (b) are mixed in a kneader at least until the mean particle size of the component (b) in the mixture is from 0.5 to 5 μm.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of the oil-in-water dispersions obtainable by the process of claims 10 and 11 as an~~ An emulsifier and/or deaerator for aqueous, disperse or nondisperse liquids comprising the oil-in-water dispersion obtained by the process as claimed in claim 10.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~The use as claimed in claim 12, wherein the oil-in-water dispersions are used as antifoams and/or deaerators~~ An antifoam and/or deaerator for use in the paper industry, in the food industry and in wastewater treatment plants comprising the oil-in-water dispersion obtained by the process as claimed in claim 10.